

## COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY & FINANCING

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## Legislative Update, Week of April 23, 2010

On Monday, Senate Bill 29, Concerning the Creation of Efficiencies of Governmental Entities that Provide Services to the People of the State, sponsored by Senator Penry, passed with amendments out of the Senate Committee of State, Veterans and Military Affairs and was referred to Senate Appropriations committee. The proposal creates efficiencies and cost savings in state and local government through a variety of measures.

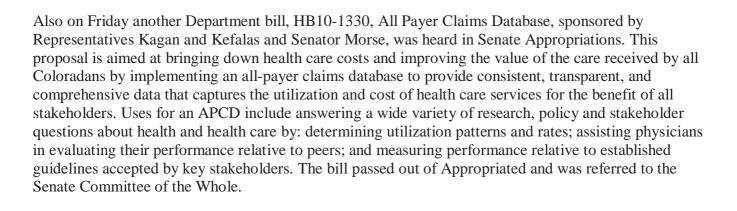
Senate Bill 160, Concerning Alternative Medicaid for the Elderly, sponsored by Senator Lundberg, which creates a voluntary alternative medical assistance program for the Medicaid-eligible elderly, was lost with amendments on Tuesday of this week on Second reading in the Senate.

On Thursday, House Bill 1033, Concerning the Provision of Services through the Medicaid Program Related to Substance Abuse, sponsored by Representative Massey and Senators Boyd and Schwartz, was heard in Senate Health and Human Services Committee. This proposal adds to the list of optional services provided to Medicaid recipients screening, brief intervention, and referral to treatment for alcohol and other substance abuse services. The bill passed unamended out of committee and was referred to Senate Appropriations.

Also on Thursday, House Bill 1005, Concerning Home Health through Telemedicine, sponsored by Representative Massey and Senator Foster, passed on a vote of 5:1 out of Senate Health and Human Services. This bill makes telemedicine eligible for reimbursement under the state's medical assistance program in order to comply with direction from the federal centers for Medicare and Medicaid services.

House Bill 1332 Medical Clean Claims, sponsored by Representative Miklosi and Senator Romer, passed on Third and final reading in the Senate. The bill creates the "Medical Clean Claims Transparency and Uniformity Act", which requires the executive director of HCPF to establish a task force of industry and government representatives to develop a standardized set of payment rules and claim edits to be used by payers and health care providers in Colorado. The task force is to track the progress of the national initiative, known as the American society for quality initiative (ASQ initiative), in the development of a national uniform, standardized set of rules and edits and avoid duplication of conflict with the ASQ initiative.

On Friday, the Department's bill Medicaid Efficiencies and False Claims Act, SB10-167, sponsored by Senator Boyd and Representative Riesberg, passed with amendments in House Appropriations. The proposal combines a number of efficiencies aimed at strengthening our programs and processes in Medicaid. Some elements include: a state false claims act, which allows the Department to achieve a greater share from Qui Tam (whistleblower) and overpayment recoveries paid by the federal government; a National Correct Coding Initiative that will automatically check provider claim requests to determine if they include contradictory service codes, which will help mitigate a time-consuming and complicated review process which locates the error after the fact; and an internal audit unit to assure compliance with the Department's many responsibilities to the state and federal government.



If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this report, please contact Ginny Brown and 303-815-0652 or Nicole Storm at 303-748-5310